

HOUSE BILL 2585  
By McDonald

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 66, Chapter 29, Part 1, relative to the health access incentive account.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 66-29-151(b), is amended by adding the following language between the first and second sentences:

Beginning with the 1998-99 fiscal year, phase one of such program shall focus on recruiting primary care physicians and nurse practitioners for the fifteen (15) counties which have the most acute shortages of primary health care. Incentives shall be developed by the commissioner of health for these areas which include a combination of scholarships for medical and nursing students; a loan repayment plan for primary care physicians, specialists, and nurse practitioners; salary supplements; increased recruitment for minorities; a rural residence training program and an alternating plan which would provide time off for hard pressed rural physicians. Phase two of such program shall be the development of a high technology/telecommunications program to network rural areas to major specialty centers, and phase three shall focus on the needs for medical specialists in the thirty (30) counties having the severest shortages of specialists. The commissioner shall also develop a schedule for implementing each phase of the program based on anticipated revenues and shall report annually to the governor and to the members of the general assembly on the number and types of

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health care providers recruited and retained as well as the revenues and expenditures made during the fiscal year.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 66-29-121(a), is amended by deleting the second sentence in its entirety.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.